

State Board of Education Meeting Audio - Part 1
Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Formal Public Comment

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. The following members of the State Board were present: Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge Melendez, Vice President; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr.; G. Patrick Heffernan, Randall L. Hughes and Terry M. Whittaker. Deputy Secretary of Education David Blowman was present to serve as the Deputy Executive Secretary for the State Board and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, was also present.

Attached is the sign in sheet of attendees for the Board meeting. The agenda was approved as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Melendez and seconded by Mr. Coverdale. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Minutes from the work session of February 19, 2015 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale to approve the minutes of the work session as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Minutes from the regular meeting of February 19, 2015 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote.

One individual signed up to address the State Board on the modification for Freire and withdrew since the comment period for that modification had passed.

Deborah Stevens from the Delaware State Education Association addressed the State Board on the ESEA Flexibility Renewal Application that will be before the Board. DSEA previously submitted its comments in writing which asked for an additional year of data before scores are used for school and district accountability and teacher evaluations. Ms. Stevens noted that many stakeholder groups agree with this position. She stated that DSEA supports the recent revisions made to the application and asked that the Board approval the application renewal.

State Board of Education Meeting Audio - Part 2
Committee Reports from State Board Members, Literacy Campaign Information, Secretary's Report

Board members highlighted their monthly activities. Mr. Hughes indicated that he resigned as a member of the National Association of State Boards of Education Board of Directors as his term on the State Board expires in a few months. Dr. Whittaker attended the education forum on improving Wilmington schools; Mr. Coverdale attended a program at Cab Calloway School; and Mr. Heffernan attended the State Board's workshop on literacy and intellectual freedom. Dr. Gray attended the education forum and the State Board professional development workshop and highlighted her attendance at the National Science Teachers Association conference where she served on a panel.

Ms. Johnson reported that the State Board was the recipient of a NASBE grant to provide professional development and outreach to its stakeholders on the Next Generation Science Standards, Implementing College and Career Ready Standards, Deeper Learning, Education for

the 21st Century and Building Stronger Principalships through State Policy. Ms. Johnson also provided an update on the State Board's Literacy Campaign.

Deputy Secretary Blowman provided the Secretary's monthly report. He highlighted commented that the Smarter Balanced testing began last week and appears to be running smoothly. The Deputy Secretary also noted that the Department's ESEA Flexibility Application is on the agenda for action today and he thanked all who provided input into the process as well as the many Department staff members who worked on the initiative as well as the engage of the State Board.

Showcase of Innovation

The Board received a presentation on Teacher Leadership: Making a Difference in Delaware. Christopher Ruszkowski who leads the Teacher Leadership Effectiveness Unit at the Department stated that the Department is working with schools and districts to identify and implement models of teacher leadership which includes various roles, positions and professional development opportunities to allow teachers to grow, advance their careers and increase their impact on schools while staying in the classroom.

The Board was presented with highlights from several programs. Eric Westendorf, co-founder and CEO of LearnZillion along with third grade teacher Arielle Johnson from Woodbridge reviewed the Delaware Dream Team. Dana Diesel Wallace, President and CEO for Schools that Lead was joined by Jesse Parsley, a 7th grade math teacher in the Milford School District on that program focuses on student learning. Raymond Theilacker, Director of the Delaware Teachers Institute and Barbara Prillaman, an educator in the Red Clay Consolidated School District provided an overview of the teacher-led, teacher-sustained professional development.

The Board recessed from 2:30 p.m. to 2:37 p.m.

Wilmington Education Advisory Committee Presentation

Dr. Tony Allen, Chairman of the Wilmington Education Advisory Committee highlighted the work of the committee and its action agenda that focuses on creating responsive governance, meeting the needs of Wilmington students, funding student success and implementing change. Dr. Allen noted that the issue of low income and poverty go beyond the City of Wilmington as 51% of all students in public education are low income but Wilmington does have the highest percentage. The Committee also suggests reducing the number of Wilmington school districts and also suggested establishing a Wilmington Charter Consortium to promote shared capacity, collaboration and best practices which would also become a key vehicle for community partnerships.

The Board recessed from 3:30 p.m. to 3:54 p.m. as the Governor Markell was present to make a brief public address.

State Board of Education Meeting Audio - Part 5

ESEA Flexibility Application Approval

ESEA Flexibility Application Approval

Penny Schwinn and Ryan Reyna provided the Board with the changes that had been made to the EXEA Flexibility application based on stakeholder feedback. It was explained that as per U.S. Department of Education guidelines, Delaware has requested a one year “pause” in the implementation of school ratings following the administration of a new assessment. The annual assessment targets will be reset in January 2016.

A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the ESEA Flexibility Renewal application which will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on March 31, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board recessed from 4:40 p.m. to 4:43 p.m. Dr. Gray was excused at this time due to a previous commitment. Mr. Melendez presided over the remainder of the meeting.

State Board of Education Meeting Audio - Part 6

Approval of State Perkins Plan, Department Regulations

Approval of State Perkins Plan

Michael Watson, Chief Academic Officer and Luke Rhine, CTE/STEM Director highlighted the State Plan for Career and Technical Education. As eligible agency and sole agency responsible for the supervision of administration of career and technical education for purposes of the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, Perkins IV, the Board was asked to take action to approve the plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the one-year plan revision of the Perkins IV State Plan for Career and Technical Education for the 2015-2016 program year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried unanimously by voice vote (Dr. Gray not present at time of vote).

Department Regulations

Tina Shockley, the Department’s Policy Advisor, presented the Department’s regulations

Regulation 902 Gifted or Talented Education Plan

Ms. Johnson noted the Board’s concern and the comments received about the removal of charter schools from the regulation and the timing of implementation of the plan after development of the plan. Ms. Shockley stated that the Department was postponing its request for action on this new regulation until next month.

Regulation 923 Children with Disabilities Subpart B General Duties and Eligibility of Agencies

The amendments to this regulation were presented for discussion. Sarah Celestin from the Exceptional Children Resources Work Group was present to respond to questions.

Regulation 925 Children with Disabilities Subpart D Evaluations, Eligibility Determination, Individualized Education Programs

The amendments to this regulation were presented for discussion. Sarah Celestin from the Exceptional Children Resources Work Group was present to respond to questions.

**State Board of Education Meeting Audio - Part 7
Charter School Items, Professional Standards Board, Appeals, Information Items,
Adjournment**

Charter Schools

Jen Nagourney from the Charter School Office provided the charter items. She was joined by David Blowman, Deputy Secretary of Education and Chair of the Charter School Accountability Committee. Dr. Susan Haberstroh was authorized by Secretary Murphy to serve as the Associate Secretary to the State Board of Education for the charter school items.

Major Modifications

Academia Antonia Alonso has requested a major modification to decrease the student enrollment by more than 15%. Dr. Haberstroh noted that the Charter School Accountability Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval and asked for the consent of the State Board to approve the request. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to consent to the approval of the major modification request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Dr. Gray was not present at time of vote and Mr. Coverdale was excused at this time).

Early College High School has requested a major modification to remove two of the preferences for admissions contained in its charter application. Dr. Haberstroh noted that the Charter School Accountability Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval and asked for the consent of the State Board to approve the request. A motion was made by Mr. Hughes to consent to the approval of the major modification request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Dr. Gray and Mr. Coverdale were not present at time of vote).

Freire Charter School has requested two major modifications to decrease the student enrollment so the schools starts with only Grades 8 and 9 in the first year and to move the specific interest enrollment preference contained in its charter application. Dr. Haberstroh noted that the Charter School Accountability Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval and asked for the consent of the State Board to approve the requests. A motion was made by Mr. Hughes to consent to the approval of the major modification request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Dr. Gray and Mr. Coverdale were not present at time of vote).

Formal Review Action Regarding Family Foundations Academy

Ms. Nagourney briefly highlighted the issues causing Family Foundations to be placed on formal review and the actions of board members from EastSide Charter School and its leader Lamont Browne to lend their experience and those allow the school's charter to be renewed with conditions and to be placed on formal review to address the remaining significant concerns. The Charter School Accountability Committee issued in its final report that the school had violated its charter in the area of board governance, board oversight and conflicts of interest, financial operations and administrative operations. Probation was recommended for a period of one year with the school providing a monthly report to the Department.

Dr. Haberstroh stated that it was the recommendation of the Secretary that the school be placed on probation for a period of six months subject to the following specific conditions, which directly relate to the violations and will better allow the Department to continue its oversight obligations in light of those violations:

- The school shall provide a monthly report to the DOE outlining the school's progress on each of the identified violations of the school's charter, to be received no later than the 1st day of each month;
- The school shall provide a monthly financial (or web) report to the Executive Director of the Charter School Office;
- The school's FY15 audit shall be conducted by an independent auditing firm that has neither audited the school in the past nor provided technical assistance to the school;
- The school shall hold a Citizens Budget Oversight Committee meeting by May 1, 2015 and at least quarterly thereafter throughout the period of probation; and
- The school will comply with the recommendations of the Public Integrity Commission's determination, set forth in its letter of March 3, 2015, that the school maintain its finances separate from EastSide's and that FFA's board is expanded to allow members who are also members of EastSide's Board to recuse without adversely affecting FFA's quorum when conflicts of interest make participation inappropriate.

The Secretary is seeking the assent of the State Board in both the findings of this formal review and the remedial measure of six months probation with the specified conditions. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker that the State Board consents to the recommendation of the Secretary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Dr. Gray and Mr. Coverdale were not present at time of vote).

Charter Monthly Update

Ms. Nagourney provided a brief update.

Professional Standards Board

Ms. Johnson noted that the Professional Standards Board was unable to meet last month due to inclement weather and these two discussion items would be placed on the Board's April agenda.

Appeals and Reviews

Ms. Kirshon provided an update on the appeal listed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Dr. Gray and Mr. Coverdale were not present at time of vote).

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

David Blowman, Deputy Executive Secretary
and Deputy Secretary of Education